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## BOOK NOTICES.

*Memoirs of the Peabody Museum of American Archæology and Ethnology, Harvard University, Vol. II, Nos. 1 and 2.\* Researches in the Central Portion of the Usumatsintla Valley, by Teobert Maler.*

The results of several expeditions undertaken by the author are here compactly set forth. The sites examined, fifteen in number, are in the States of Tabasco and Chiapas, Mexico, and the Department of Peten, Guatemala, and were visited as follows: La Reforma, Chinikihá, Cháncala, Xupa, and Lake Pethá in 1898; Piedras Negras in 1895 and 1899; El Cayo, Budsilhá, La Mar, El Chile, Anaité II, and El Chicozapote in 1897; Yāxchilan in 1897 and 1899-1900; Lake Bolonchac and San Lorenzo in 1900. In none of these sites, with the exception of Yāxchilan and Lake Pethá, had important explorations been previously made.

The work at Lakes Pethá and Bolonchac was ethnological, elsewhere archæological. The material for the former is scarce and vanishing rapidly. The few facts which Herr Maler could gather about the moribund Lacantun Mayas are of great interest. Their ancestor worship, their lack of capacity for joyfulness, their kindness and shyness, at once make further researches desirable and fascinating. Vases of stone and clay they still use in offering to the gods and old images on the old sites. It is much to be hoped that Mr. Tozzer, now at work among this evanescent race, may help to fill up the awful gap between the builders of the great prehistoric structures and the present hut-dwellers. Prehistoric buildings are scattered all over the valleys, but on the river at Piedras Negras and Yāxchilan (or Piedras Verdes) were stately cities. Community-houses, mortuary pyramids, and temples stood on the slopes in order, usually facing in some common or regular direction. Carved friezes, lintels, and walls; painting, outside and in and on the sculpture, reminding one in colour and design of Tiryns and Crete; altars and stelæ in great numbers, were here. The carving, mostly in relief, on lintels, altars, and stelæ, resembles that from Palenque, Copan, and elsewhere; the inexperienced may say they all look alike, but the identities vanish on close study, and an infinite variety of symbolism, representation, composition, expression, colour, and technique appears. Noble gods,

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\* Cambridge: Vol. I, 1901; Vol. 2, 1903. Published by the Museum.

high priests, and doughty warriors are shown in contrast to common men and women and prisoners—a contrast heightened, somewhat as in archaic Greece, by differences in size and working out.

The great fault with Mayan art is over-elaboration of dress; the figure is lost in symbols and apparel. Archaic Greek art developed into the showing of the human form with drapery as an accessory, and thus reached the highest; archaic America went the other way, and failed. One welcomes the rare, occasional approaches to the nude as seen in the statue from Budsilhá (p. 92), the statue of Ketsalkoatl from Yāxchilan (p. 161), and the head from San Lorenzo (p. 206).

There are a few slips—surprisingly few—such as the placing of Cháncala on the map to the north of the Cháncala River, and in the text (p. 14) to the south of it; again, the text (p. 24) reads that the expedition moved south or southeast, whereas it must have moved southwest. Outside of these the book is wonderfully composed, translated, and printed. The style is perfection; far from dry, it contains all the archæological data obtainable. The translators, Miss Wesselhoeft and Miss Parker, deserve praise for the elimination of German abstruseness. The eighty photographic plates are beautifully done, and are absolutely indispensable to the understanding of the text. Made with a loving taking of pains, in the most favorable sunlight or at night by magnesium light by Herr Maler, they will appeal to all who have ever taken camera or excavations in hand. Equally important are the maps, which, outside of the twisting of the points of the compass in that of Yāxchilan, are admirably clear, complete, and precise. C. P.

*The Weather and Practical Methods of Forecasting It*, by E. B. Dunn.  
8vo, pp. viii + 356. New York, Dodd, Mead & Company, 1902.

The author of *The Weather* is already quite well known as the former Local Forecast Official of the United States Weather Bureau in New York. In this book Mr. Dunn has, as he says in his preface, “aimed to avoid all mathematical and scientific and technical terms, and to present the subject in the simplest and most popular form”; there is general, but brief, discussion of most of the subjects treated in the text-books of meteorology, and considerable attention is paid to rules for forecasting coming weather changes, both with and without the use of the daily weather map. A chapter on Climate is chiefly concerned with the question of climate in relation to diseases of the respiratory system.

It is unfortunate that a book on a subject of so great popular